33	near-duplicate of a previously processed
34	document, then associating the document
35	corresponding to the candidate search result with
36	a cluster identifier associated with the
37	previously processed document.

Please cancel claims 14, 15, 30-33 and 39 without prejudice to, or disclaimer of, the subject matter recited therein.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(c)(1)(ii), separate sheets with the rewritten claim marked-up to show the changes made to the previous version of the claim, is filed herewith.

REMARKS

In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, the applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are not anticipated under 35 U.S.C. § 102. Accordingly, it is believed that this application is in condition for allowance. **If, however, the Examiner believes that there are any unresolved issues, or believes that some or all of the claims are not in condition for allowance, the applicants respectfully request that the Examiner contact the undersigned to schedule a telephone Examiner Interview before any further actions on the merits.**

The applicants will now address each of the issues raised in the outstanding Office Action.

Objections

Claim 16 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but was found to include allowable subject matter. Claim 16 has been rewritten in independent form to include the elements of base claim 14 and intervening claim 15. Accordingly, this objection to claim 16 should be withdrawn.

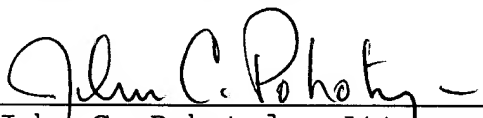## Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 14, 15, 30-33 and 39 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,119,124 ("the Broder patent"). The applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw this ground of rejection in view of the following. Since these claims have been canceled, this ground of rejection is now moot.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, the applicants request that the Examiner pass this application to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

June 12, 2003

John C. Pokotylo, Attorney
Reg. No. 36,242
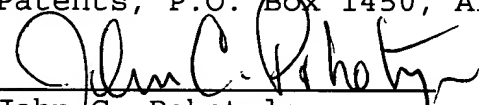Customer No. 26479
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING under 37 C.F.R. 1.8(a)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited on **June 12, 2003** with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, with sufficient postage, in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

John C. Pokotylo

Reg. No. 36,242

Claim 16 has been amended as follows:

1   16.   (AMENDED)   A method for filtering search results to

2 remove near-duplicates, the method comprising:

3   a)   for each of a predetermined number of candidate

4   search results, determining whether the candidate

5   search result is a near-duplicate of another candidate

6   search result; and

7   b)   if it is determined that the candidate search

8   result is a near-duplicate of another candidate search

9   result, then rejecting the candidate search result

10   wherein the act of determining whether a

11 candidate search result is a near-duplicate of another

12 candidate search result includes

13   i)   comparing a cluster identifier of the

14   candidate search result with that of the other

15   candidate search result, and

16   ii)   if the cluster identifiers of the two

17   candidate search results match, then concluding

18   that the two candidate search results are

19   near-duplicates, and

20 [The method of claim 15] wherein cluster identifiers of the

21 candidate search results are assigned by:

22   i)   determining whether or not a document

23   corresponding to the candidate search result is a

24   near-duplicate of any of previously processed

25   documents,

26   ii)   if it is determined that the document

27   corresponding to the candidate search result is

1

28	not a near-duplicate of any previously processed
29	document, then associating the document with a
30	unique cluster identifier, and
31	iii) if it is determined that the document
32	corresponding to the candidate search result is a
33	near-duplicate of a previously processed
34	document, then associating the document
35	corresponding to the candidate search result with
36	a cluster identifier associated with the
37	previously processed document.